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The validity of the sunbird genus *Hedydipna*

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Since the publication of a monograph by Cheke & Mann (2001) on the sunbirds, spiderhunters, flowerpeckers and sugarbirds, all included within the Nectariniidae by those authors and by Sibley & Monroe (1990), the invalidity of *Hedydipna* has come to light.

Irwin (1999) separated Collared Sunbird (formerly known as *Anthreptes collaris*) and its allies from *Anthreptes*, placing them in *Hedydipna* Cabanis, 1850, the type species of which is *H. platyura* Vieillot, 1819, by original designation (although Cabanis 1850 used the spelling *H. platyura*, whilst on the same line referring to *Cinnyris platyura* Vieill.). *Hedydipna* had been used previously albeit without explicit rationale by *inter alia* Zedlitz (1910) for *H. p. adiabonensis*, Madarász (1915) for *H. danakilensis*, van Someren (1920) for *H. p. karamojensis* and Sclater (1930) and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1955) for *H. platyura*. However, both Sclater and Mackworth-Praed & Grant retained *collaris* in *Anthreptes*, treating *Anthodiaeta zambesiana* Shelley, 1880, as *Anthreptes collaris zambesiana* (Shelley 1880).

Fry *et al.* (2000) and Cheke & Mann (2001) followed Irwin (1999) in using *Hedydipna* for *collaris*, *platyura*, *metallica* and *pallidigaster*. However, this was incorrect as, by 'position precedence' (ICZN 1999: 73, 295), *Anthodiaeta* has precedence over *Hedydipna* since Cabanis (1850) erected *Anthodiaeta* as a gen. nov. for *collaris* on the page prior to his description of *Hedydipna*. Roberts (1931, 1932)

presumably realised this when he used *Anthodiaeta* for his descriptions of *Anthodiaeta collaris zuluensis* and *A. c. chobiensis*, although he did not provide rationale. Also, Skead (1967) included *Anthodiaeta* in his synonymies of *Anthreptes* without mentioning *Hedydipna*. Given these precedents and Shelley's (1876–80) use of *Anthodiaeta zambesiana*, we conclude that *Anthodiaeta* should replace *Hedydipna*, if *collaris*, *platara*, *metallica* and *pallidigaster* are treated as congeneric.

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